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## **AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

Please cancel claims 1-4 without prejudice.

The listing of claims shown below will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the Application:

- 1. (Cancelled)
- 2. (Cancelled)
- 3. (Cancelled)
- 4. (Cancelled)
- 5. (New) A method for sorting a particle of interest from a plurality of particles comprising the steps of:

determining an absorption maxima of the particle of interest;

providing a light source for generating a beam of coherent light at a wavelength correlating to the absorption maxima;

providing a plurality of particles on a support surface;

illuminating the plurality of particles with a moving beam of the coherent light, the moving beam of light causing differential movement between the particle of interest and the plurality of particl s; and

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collecting the particle of interest.

6. (New) The method of claim 5, wherein the absorption maxima is a local maxima.

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- 7. (New) The method of claim 5, wherein the absorption maxima is a global maxima.
- 8. (New) The method of claim 5, wherein the absorption maxima is obtained by empirical data.
  - 9. (New) The method of claim 5, wherein the support surface is a slide.
- 10. (New) The method of claim 5, wherein the support surface is a microfluidic channel.
- 11. (New) A method for sorting a particle of interest from a plurality of particles comprising the steps of:

determining an absorption maxima of the particle of interest;

providing a light source for generating a beam of coherent light at a wavelength correlating to the absorption maxima;

providing a plurality of particles on a support surface;

illuminating the plurality of particles with a moving beam of the coherent light;

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moving the plurality of particles in relation to the beam of light so as to cause differential movement between the particle of interest and the plurality of particles; and collecting the particle of interest.

- 12. (New) The method of claim 11, wherein the absorption maxima is a local maxima.
- 13. (New) The method of claim 11, wherein the absorption maxima is a global maxima.
- 14. (New) The method of claim 11, wherein the absorption maxima is obtained by empirical data.
  - 15. (New) The method of claim 11, wherein the support surface is a slide.
- 16. (New) The method of claim 11, wherein the support surface is a microfluidic channel.